

# Light Rail Stage 2B Traction Power Substation Proposal

## Gunn Street Park Yarralumla

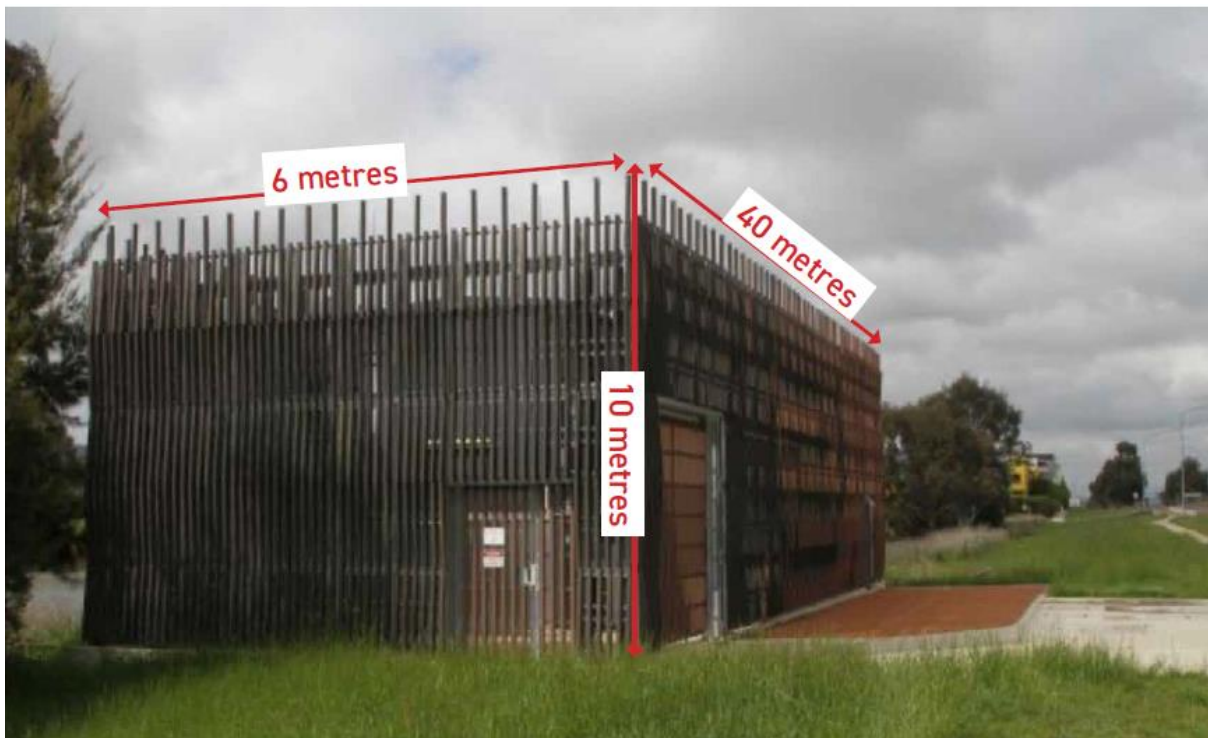
The Draft Light Rail Stage 2B (LRS2B) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS202400003) opened for public consultation from 7 July to 5 September 2025. In the EIS the ACT Government proposed to build a Traction Power Substation (TPS8) at the intersection of Gunn and Guilfoyle Streets, in Yarralumla, The proposal was to locate the TPS adjacent to residences in the public open space park an active travel route and wildlife corridor area with mature trees and abundant wildlife, including the endangered Golden Sun Moth.

The proposed site would impact on the community and amenity in particular loss of green space; removal of a large number of large trees; loss of wildlife habitat for protected species; creating constant noise; and heavy traffic during construction.

A traction power substation (TPS) converts the grid's high-voltage AC supply to the lower-voltage DC, typically at 600–3000 V, using transformers and rectifiers. The TPS is required to take AC power from the suburb's existing electrical grid and converting it to the DC power needed by light rail. Noise from the substation could hover around the 60-80-decibels.

A traction Power Substation is a very large structure 3 storeys high and 40 metres long – that is the size of a house.

**A traction power station looks like this one in Mitchell ACT**



Following concerted lobbying by the YRA, local residents, and support from Fiona Carrick MLA and Shane Rattenbury MLA. The TPS location has been moved.

There were a large number of submissions to the EIS against the location of TPS. Fiona Carrick MLA sponsored an e-petition to government “Relocate light rail traction power substation away from Yarralumla homes” that received considerable support from the community, was tabled in the Assembly and referred to the Minister on 22 October 2025. There was an onsite community briefing for residents by the YRA on 21 March 2022 attended by 40 residents, and Fiona Carrick MLA, Shane Rattenbury MLA and Ed Cocks MLA.

The ACT Government announced, in a media release on 4 May 2026, that the Traction Power Substation would be located at Denison Street in Deakin rather than the original proposal at Gunn Street Yarralumla. This location would be included in the final EIS to be released by the end of 2026. [Alignment locked in for light rail extension to Woden - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate](#)

*“The ACT Government has listened to community feedback regarding the Traction Power Substation originally proposed to be located in Yarralumla and can confirm a revised location proposed in Denison Street, Deakin will now be progressed.*

*The revised, final EIS will be lodged with the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and the Territory Planning Authority next month, with an outcome expected by the end of this year”*

12 May 2026